

Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 018775-827

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of )  
Hirotomo ISHII ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Application No.: Unassigned ) Examiner: Unassigned  
Filed: May 1, 2001 )  
For: IMAGE PROCESSING FOR ... )

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-captioned patent application, kindly enter the following amendment.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

*Kindly replace Claim 4, and add new Claims 4 and 5, as follows.*

4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein every N pixel from a pixel at an edge of the image in a predetermined direction within the image is the pixel defined in the first condition, and a pixel which exists on a straight line including the target pixel extending in the predetermined direction and which is positioned within a predetermined range from the target pixel is the pixel defined in the second condition.

5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the storage unit stores a third condition defining a position relative to the target pixel in a predetermined